



MARAD Update



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Great Team for the Great Lakes

MARAD Joins Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

By Debbie Aheron, Office of Environmental Activities



On December 3, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois, in an unprecedented display of intergovernmental and multi-state collaboration, dozens of government officials and tribal representatives signed the Great Lakes Declaration, pledging to work together toward their common goal: protecting, restoring, and improving the ecosystem of the Great Lakes. Officials in attendance included members of President Bush's Cabinet and senior staff, members of Congress, Great Lakes governors, tribes, mayors, state senators and representatives. Officials also signed a framework document, which calls for these parties to, within one year, design a strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes now and into the future.

In May 2004, President George W. Bush called for the creation of "a regional collaboration of national significance." Groups signing the Great Lakes Declaration included the Federal Great Lakes Inter-agency Task Force, the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, Great Lakes Tribes, and the Great Lakes Governors Task Force. Together they moved to convene the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration; have developed priority areas that they feel are important, and the collaboration has adopted those areas and established strategy teams to address them."

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